MECL, HCL (Hindustan Copper Ltd.) has opened Malanjkhand Mine. HCL is also developing a mine at Banwas in Khetri Copper belt which is a result of discovery made by MECL. Proving of continuity of ore bodies below 'O' MRL (Mean Reduced Level) in Madan Khundan Mine of Khetri Copper belt would enable HCL to increase the depth of a mine.

Inventory of Products in the Stocks of NALCO

3101. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Aluminium Co. Ltd. has built up an alarming inventory of products in their stocks where crores of rupees are held up as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to lessen the inventory?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) had inventory of about 750 MT as on 31.3.1997 which is less than 2 days' production.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation Package for Workers of Bharat Gold Mines

3102. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 313 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1997 and state:

(a) the reasons for not taking any decision on tender quotations received for treatment of huge tailings in Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Kolar;

(b) whether the evaluation report of these quotations was placed ever before BIFR;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that BIFR has given its final decision for closing Bharat Gold Mines;

(e) if so, the number of workers likely to lose job; and

(f) the details of rehabilitation package, if any, prepared for such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) floated global tenders in July, 1994 for exploration/exploitation of gold in the areas held under lease by BGML and for setting up of a project for recovery of gold through treatment of tailings. However, taking into account the financial benefits accruing to BGML, it was decided that it will be more beneficial for the Company to set up the project for extraction of gold from treatment of tailings on its own rather than through Joint Venture route.

(b) and (c) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) appointed M/s. Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) as the Operating Agency (OA) for BGML. The tenders were evaluated in consultation with ICICI. The result of evalutation was reported to BIFR.

(d) to (f) No, Sir, BIFR issued winding up notice vide its order dated 14.11.96 against which BGML appealed before Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). has quashed this order and remitted the matter to BIFR.

खनन कार्य को निजी क्षेत्र को सौंपा जाना

3103. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को देश में खानों में खनन कार्य को निजी क्षेत्र को सौंपने का निर्णय लिए जाने के बाद से निजी क्षेत्र की फर्मों से कई पेशकश प्राप्त हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक कुल कितनी पेशकश प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ग) उनमें से कितनी पेशकश स्वीकार हो गई है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इन पेशकशों की स्वीकृति के लिए कोई सर्वमान्य पारदर्शी मानदण्ड निर्धारित किए है; यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) से (घ) खनन संबंधित राज्य सरकार द्वारा खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम 1957